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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:	)	Group Art Unit: 1634
	)	
ADAMS <i>et al.</i>	)	Examiner: Chakrabarti, A.
	)	
Serial No. 09/867,193	)	Attr. Docker No. GP100-03.CN1
	)	
Filed: May 29, 2001	)	VIA FACSIMILE
	)	
For: DECOY PROBES	)	

**REPLY UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed on March 6, 2002, kindly enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks in connection with the above-captioned application.

**Amendments****IN THE CLAIMS:**

Kindly substitute and add the following claims:

1. (Twice Amended) A purified decoy probe comprising:  
a first nucleotide base recognition sequence region, wherein said first region binds to an RNA polymerase; and  
an optionally present second nucleotide base recognition sequence region,  
provided that if said first region is nucleic acid and said second region is present, then said second region is either directly joined to the 5' end of said first region or is joined to the 3' end or 5' end of said first region by a non-nucleotide linker, wherein said optionally present second